

Statement of the Air and Radiation Administration

Maryland Department of the Environment

**For the Public Hearing concerning the State of Maryland 0.075 ppm 8-Hour Ozone
Nitrogen Oxide Reasonably Available Control Technology (RACT) State Implementation
Plan**

Good morning. My name is Jess Herpel. I am a Natural Resources Planner in the Planning and Policy Division, Air Quality Planning Program of the Air & Radiation Administration, Maryland Department of the Environment.

This public hearing is related to the air quality plan entitled the *State of Maryland 0.075 ppm 8-Hour Ozone Nitrogen Oxide Reasonably Available Control Technology (RACT) State Implementation Plan*.

This public hearing is being held pursuant to federal law found at 42 U. S. C. § 7410(a) and 40 CFR Parts 51.102 and 251. It is also being held in conformance with the State Administrative Procedure Act, under the State Government Article, beginning at Section 10-101.

Notice of this public hearing appeared in the *Maryland Register*, Volume 45, Issue 21, dated June 8, 2018. The notice was also posted on the Maryland Department of the Environment's website on May 23, 2018 and remained on the website through the date of today's hearing.

Copies of each the public hearing notice and the proposed the *State of Maryland 0.075 ppm 8-Hour Ozone Nitrogen Oxide Reasonably Available Control Technology (RACT) State*

Implementation Plan will be part of the formal hearing record.

Access to the proposed document was made available via the website of the Maryland Department of the Environment. Hard copies were also available at the Maryland Department of the Environment.

The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with an opportunity to formally comment on the proposed document.

Summary of the State of Maryland 0.075 ppm 8-Hour Ozone Nitrogen Oxide Reasonably Available Control Technology (RACT) State Implementation Plan

The Clean Air Act was passed in 1970 to protect public health and welfare. Congress amended the Act in 1990 to establish requirements for areas not meeting the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). The Clean Air Act Amendments established a process for evaluating air quality in each region and identifying nonattainment areas according to the severity of its air pollution problem. The Clean Air Act sets health standards for six ambient pollutants: carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, ozone, lead and particulate matter. The Environmental Protection Agency establishes rules and regulations to implement the Clean Air Act.

This plan consists of Maryland's State Implementation Plan (SIP) Revision developed for the purpose of meeting the RACT requirements set forth by the Clean Air Act (CAA), as the requirements apply to the 0.075 ppm 8-hour ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard

(NAAQS). This document is a revised and updated version of the RACT SIP that Maryland submitted in 2011, in response to the 1997 0.080 ppm 8-hr ozone standard.

CONSIDERATION OF COMMENTS

The Department will consider all pertinent comments, and revise the proposed plan if necessary, before making a final decision to adopt the plan and submit it to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for approval as a Maryland State Implementation Plan. Oral and written comments may be presented at this hearing. The 30-day public comment period that began on May 23, 2018 for receipt of all comments to the plan will close at 5:00 PM on July 2, 2018.